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MISCELLANEOUS

WICKWARE, FRANCIS G. (Ed. by). *The American Year Book, 1917*. Pp. xx, 822. Price, \$3.00. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1918.

"A record of events and progress for 1917" is extremely welcome. The war has had its influence on every activity, and while the new edition follows the general plan of the Year Book, it has been found necessary to curtail some portions in order to include data on the war itself and foreign matters heretofore very briefly discussed.

References throughout to former issues of the Year Book and cross references, together with a very complete index, enhance the value to anyone desirous of making a continuous study of a special subject.

ECONOMICS

BULLOCK, EDNA D. (compiled by). *Selected Articles on Single Tax*. (Second edition, rev. and enlgd.) Pp. vii, 249.

PHELPS, EDITH M. (compiled by). *Selected Articles on the Income Tax*. (Third and enlgd. ed.) Pp. xxxiii, 235. Price, \$1.25 each. New York: The H. W. Wilson Company, 1917.

These two books are in the Debaters' Handbook series, and are prepared in the usual form. They contain bibliographies with brief comment on content or point of view. The bibliographies would be more valuable if the comments were more extensive and more to the point. The excerpts in the volume on Income Tax are primarily from the accessible magazine sources and are not so representative or as well chosen as are the selections in the volume on the Single Tax.

C. L. K.

HOBSON, J. A. *Democracy after the War*. Pp. 215. Price, \$1.25. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1917.

To Mr. Hobson the important contest after the war will be that of democracy against its enemies. There is an undoubted "antagonism between war and the exercise of those personal and political liberties comprised in democracy." To him there is a close and inevitable association between war, militarism, capitalism, profiteering, protectionism, colonialism, imperialism, junkerdom,—in short our entire industrial system in all of its leading aspects. Many influences in the fields of theory and of experiment are to be observed. In Germany, the idea of "the absolute and forceful State, animated by a will for power" illustrates the way in which a political theory has been utilized to shape both thought and conduct in conservative mold. In Great Britain the "classical political economy" with its *laissez-faire* assumptions, its marginal theory of value and its productivity theory of labor has likewise given support to capitalism. Spiritual and social forces working through the church, the schools and the press are also involved in an alliance against progress not plainly recognized but none the less real. The older theories may go but a new group may be expected to support the motives of those who hope "to purchase enlarged productivity and improved discipline from labour with a small portion of the increased yield of wealth."

It is probable that the State will "endeavor to retain after the war many of the emergency powers it has acquired during the war." In some directions, particularly in the field of taxation, an extension of powers will come and the capitalistic group will endeavor "to put high protection on the country under the guise of national security, imperial unity, punishment of Germany and maintenance of the Alliance." Moreover, they will try "to shift on to 'the masses' a large proportion of the burden of taxation." What they want is "protection and high productivity of labor."

The first problem for the workers is to determine their attitude toward increased productivity. This they should support because increased output is an indispensable condition of progress. Their second problem is to decide their attitude toward the State as controller of industry. The securing of their share of an increased productivity can not be left to economic tendencies but they must rely on the use of political strength. Hence the State must be made democratic and internationalism must take the place of the closed State.

Mr. Hobson's book is welcome to those familiar with his earlier volumes. In his theory he has in the past laid the greatest emphasis on distribution. The recognition in this volume of the importance of production in the near future is significant. How fully he may have anticipated the workers' attitude toward the problem is evident when one realizes the recent growth in the political activity of the Labor party of Great Britain and the statement of war aims just made by the Inter-Allied Labor Conference in London.

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KELLOGG, VERNON and TAYLOR, ALONZO E. *The Food Problem*. Pp. xiii, 213. Price, \$1.25. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1917.

This work may be looked upon, by reason of the reputation and experience of the authors, as the most authoritative presentation of the food problem yet made. The first part deals with the food situation of the Allies and the United States; the second part is given over to a technical description of the uses of food which is couched in simple and, at the same time, strictly scientific language.

It is hoped that the book will have a wide circulation. It should be invaluable to speakers in the spreading of knowledge regarding this most vital of all problems. The imperative need of our Allies for food is brought home forcibly. The saving of the required food lies in the voluntary acceptance of the necessities of the situation. Rationing the public cannot hope to succeed. "For, if a rationing system cannot succeed in Germany, it cannot hope to succeed anywhere." It is for this reason that the education of the public is so essential and it will take much of it to arouse people to the point of view that the greatest help they can render in winning this war is by eating corn and chicken instead of wheat and beef.

The authors lay special stress on the evils of profiteering. To those who are unable to visualize the situation, they give the following warning: "Whoso in war time demands 'business as usual' is acting contrary to the forces operating for success in carrying on the war; and yet the very men who so contend for 'busi-